

Appl. No.: 10/523,180
Amendment Dated: July 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15 stand rejected under §112, second paragraph, for reasons pointed out on page 2 of the Office Action. All of those claims have been amended and the more narrow limitations contained therein are now presented in new Claims 17-20.

Claims 14 and 15 have also been rejected under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. Cancellation of Claims 14 and 15 moots this rejection.

Claims 14 and 15 also stand rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 5,008,343 to Hellermann et al or U.S. 3,294,768 to Wofford. Without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's rejection in this regard, Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled rendering the rejection moot.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of Claims 1-8, 11 and 16. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance which is hereby earnestly solicited and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



C. James Bushman
Reg. No. 24,810

Date: July 28, 2006
BROWNING BUSHMAN P.C.
5718 Westheimer, Suite 1800
Houston, Texas 77057-5771
Tel.: (713) 266-5593
Fax: (713) 266-5169

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on July 28, 2006.



Cathy Hayes